



H.R. xxxx, the Active Community Transportation Act of 2010

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The Active Community Transportation Act would provide long term concentrated funding to assist communities in implementing active transportation networks.

The Challenge

Communities across the country are realizing the benefits of encouraging active lifestyles, for the health of their citizens, the environment and the economic vitality of the community. As only 68% of Americans are licensed drivers, transportation options for those who don't have access to a car, generally the elderly and the young, are especially important. Since half of the trips taken in the United States today are within a 20 minute bicycle ride, and a quarter of all trips are within a twenty minute walk, there are plenty of opportunities to incorporate walking and biking into Americans daily lives. A survey done by the National Association of Realtors in 2007 suggests that 90% of Americans wish their cities were more walkable. This translates to more valuable homes: on average, homes with better access to safe walking and biking routes are worth an additional \$4,000 to \$34,000. Active transportation also reduces greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution—research estimates that increasing the percentage of walking or bicycling trips by just a few percentage points would decrease the amount of greenhouse gas emissions by 33 million tons per year.

Americans will walk and bike if these modes are made safe and convenient. However, our nation has failed to invest adequately in pedestrian and bicycle networks to make active transportation a viable choice for routine travel. It is time for the federal government to support infrastructure investments to make walking and biking safe and convenient for all Americans. Investing federal dollars to create walkable and bikeable communities is a cost-effective way to create jobs while building transportation infrastructure.

What this Legislation Would Do

The Active Community Transportation (ACT) Act of 2010 establishes a \$2 billion competitive grant program within the Department of Transportation. The competitive grant program will provide concentrated funding for communities to create active transportation networks that provide safe and convenient access for pedestrians and bicyclists. By creating a competitive program, the ACT Act will reduce earmarks and ensures that the active transportation programs that receive funding are comprehensive, strategic and the best use of limited taxpayer dollars.

The ACT Act will have two grant application rounds. The first round will take place 180 days after the passage of the bill. Qualified communities will receive annual grants ranging from \$5 million to \$15 million for five years. The second application round will take place two years after the passage of the bill. Qualified communities will receive annual grants ranging from \$5 million to \$15 million for three years. The two round grant cycle gives communities sufficient time to apply, and also will allow the second round communities to learn from the first round. If a community fails to meet its obligations under the program, the Secretary is authorized to discontinue funds.

The Active Community Transportation Act provides concentrated, long term funding to communities that are prepared to provide healthier, cost-effective, environmentally friendly transportation options.

Supported by: Transportation for America, America Bikes, Rails to Trails Conservancy, the Outdoor Industry Association, the League of American Bicyclists, Environment America, Bikes Belong, Trek, the Alliance for Biking and Walking, Complete Streets, Smart Growth America, the American Planning Association, Safe Routes to Schools, the American Public Transportation Association, the American Institute of Architects, the Outdoor Alliance, the National Coalition for Promoting Physical Activity, the Trust for America's Health, the YMCA, the National Association of Realtors

Current Cosponsors: Blumenauer, Capuano, Carnahan, Cohen, Filner, Lipinski, Moran

For more information on Congressman Blumenauer's Livability agenda, contact Tyler Frisbee in DC at (202) 225-4811, or Meeky Blizgard in Portland at (503) 231-2300, or online at <http://blumenauer.house.gov/>.